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SOURCE Bashkimi.1952 ALBANIAN BUDGET FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Medar Shtylla, Minister of Health of the Albanian People's Republic, speaking before the Public Assembly on 5 March 1952, stated that the 1952 state budget had allotted 2,224,660,000 leks for public education, health, and social security.

A summary of his speech follows:

The sum allocated to protect and improve the health of the people was 547 million leks, that is, 47 percent greater than in 1951. Of the funds allotted for 1952, more than 62,702,000 leks, or 172.5 percent of the 1951 figure, were for expansion of health facilities in Albania. This provided for 200 additional beds, 22.8 percent more than in 1951. In day nurseries 440 beds, or 138.4 percent of the 1951 figure, were to be added. In rural hospitals and infirmaries 100 beds, or 18 percent more than in 1951, were planned. Nine dental clinics and 86 dispensaries in the farm areas were planned. This was 122.1 percent of the 1951 figure. A psychiatric clinic was planned at the hospital in Tirana. Other constructions included expansion of the bacteriological laboratory for production of vaccines and serums, a blood conservation center, and an orthopedic shop for production of artificial limbs for veterans of the war of national liberation, as well as a repair shop for medical and radiological equipment. A boarding school for 250 persons was planned at the Medical Polytechnical Institute. In addition, improvements, adaptations, and repairs were to be carried out on existing health institutions.

For the training of 503 middle- and lower-grade cadres it was planned to spend approximately 26,141,000 leks or 249.9 percent of the 1951 figure. The 503 persons are to include 32 middle-grade cadres, 212 lower-grade cadres, and 253 in lower specialization courses.

To operate the national hospitals and sanatoriums and to provide medical supplies, approximately 206,373,000 leks were included in the plan, or 126.5 percent of the 1951 figure.

For the protection of mothers and children, it was planned to spend 38,149,000 leks on national institutions alone, or 23.6 percent more than in 1951. Beds for 19,892 persons, or 142 percent of the 1951 figure were to be added.

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For the control of contagious disease and malaria, and expenditure of 42,578,000 leks, or 272.1 percent of the 1951 figure, was planned.

The local budget was to include 217,131,000 leks, or 45.1 percent more than in 1951, for all health activities, for the upkeep and operation of local medical institutions, prophylaxis, and control of contagious diseases.

Figures on work done in 1951 were as follows:

Of the funds allocated to health activities under the 1951 budget, 95 percent were utilized. The failure to use all the allotted funds was due to the inability to find qualified personnel for the staffs as well as to the failure of consumer cooperatives to supply a number of institutions with foodstuffs.

Of the total investment for 1951, amounting to approximately 36,377,300 leks, only 90 percent of the funds allocated to construction and 84 percent of the funds allocated for operations were used. This situation arose because the Muhamet Gjolllesha Enterprise did not complete work on the Tirana sanatorium and because certain instruments and medical equipment were not received from abroad.

In general the investments were properly made. Fifty maternity homes with 354 beds were built in small towns; nurseries with 460 beds and 70 dispensaries were built in rural areas. In national hospitals 115 beds were added; in sanatoriums 150 beds were added.

Although there were a number of successes in the health sector, there were some shortcomings. Among other weaknesses in 1951, the directors of some institutions had failed to reach the proper level in the supervision and direction of hospitals and sanatoriums. Hence, there was still some lack of care in treating the sick. Especially in hospitals and dispensaries, workers did not have a sufficient sense of responsibility. The technical work was notably poor in rural hospitals where neither the health sections nor the executive committees had instituted adequate supervision. The worst records were made by the health sections of Gramsh, Shkrapar, Tepelene, Fier, Burrel, Berat, Tropoje, and Vlore.

Although the Ministry of Health exercised considerable supervision over health institutions and sections in 1951, and aided them in improving their work, there were still instances in which this aid was neither complete nor satisfactory in quality. For the many shortcomings in the institutes and in various health services, the responsibility lay with the directors, with the Ministry of Health, and with its operational unit in each sector.

Shtylla admitted his own responsibility and that of his assistants for the existing shortcomings and promised improvement.

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